



# Work Plan for 2007 - 2009

## Vision North Texas Phase 3

Vision North Texas is a private-public partnership that has successfully expanded the public dialogue about choices available to the Dallas – Fort Worth region as it accommodates anticipated future growth. Decisions made today about regional development patterns, and the public and private investments that result from these choices, will determine the region's ability to be successful and sustainable in the long-term.

### Vision North Texas Results to Date

Vision North Texas is a collaboration of the Urban Land Institute's North Texas District Council (ULI), NCTCOG and the University of Texas at Arlington. Phase 1 engaged civic leaders regionwide in an April 2005 workshop that examined regional development patterns. Participants developed fifteen (15) alternative scenarios. Evaluation of these alternatives shows they may offer better choices for quality of life, economic vitality and public investment than the current regional forecast. Phase 2 expanded this effort in 2006 and 2007, with participation and financial support from cities, counties, businesses and civic organizations.



The partnership's advisors have recommended a Phase 3 for Vision North Texas that will create a shared vision for the region's future and a package of action steps so private and public sector decision-makers can make choices that achieve that vision.

### Phase 3 Overview

The primary focus of Vision North Texas Phase 3 is the creation of a new regional policy developed and endorsed by diverse stakeholders and leaders throughout the 16-county North Texas region. This shared policy direction is intended to guide decisions by individuals, community organizations, businesses and public agencies. It will address the issues that have the largest impact on the region's sustainability: its future economic vitality, quality of life and environmental health. People throughout the region will help create this regional policy.

### Contents of the Regional Policy

The Vision North Texas Advisory Committee recommends a "policy document" that will play two important roles in shaping the region's future:

- 1. A Regional Vision Statement.** In this role, the policy document will explain or describe the future of the North Texas region that stakeholders believe is most preferred or most desirable. It will include:
  - ✓ A broad statement of vision and goals;
  - ✓ A regional infrastructure framework that integrates all major infrastructure systems;
  - ✓ One or more scenarios that depict desired or preferred regional urban form and development; and
  - ✓ A set of guiding principles.

**2. An Action Package.** In this role, the policy document will detail tools and techniques that can be used by many different decision-makers to help achieve the regional vision. It will include tools, technical assistance and a 'decision playbook'. These materials and programs will help private, public and non-profit decision-makers actually implement the regional vision because they provide the information needed for smarter choices.

This Regional Policy will address key issues that are important to the region's future. These include transportation; water and energy use; open space and natural assets; and regional form or development pattern. Additional issues may include the region's economic competitiveness in the global economy and regional initiatives related to climate change.

### **Support for "Best Practices"**

Vision North Texas will continue to provide "hands-on" assistance to local governments and other regional stakeholders while this regional policy is being created. Case studies of "best practices", efforts to promote green building, design of codes that support water and energy efficiency, and similar activities will make practical tools and information available to regional decision-makers even before the regional policy is completed.



### **Phase 3 Schedule**

Phase 3 of Vision North Texas begins in October 2007. From October through December 2007, the project will focus on stakeholder outreach, research efforts and the completion of any remaining private and public fund-raising. The Regional Vision Statement and Action Package will be drafted, discussed and completed by September 2009. Adoption of these products by stakeholders should occur by the end of December 2009. Implementation – through local and regional activities – will begin in 2010.

### **Resources and Support**

Leadership and expertise for Vision North Texas are provided by sponsor organizations from the public, private, academic and non-profit sectors. Diverse regional leaders serve as Vision North Texas Advisors, providing direction to the project. A City Futures Forum provides insight from top professionals serving the region's communities. Other experts assist on specific task forces and working groups.

Vision North Texas is funded by voluntary contributions from area cities and counties, sponsorships from private sector businesses and non-profit organizations, grants and in-kind assistance. Karen Walz FAICP is the Project Manager and the North Central Texas Council of Governments provides administrative support through its Center of Development Excellence.

### **For More Information**

Information on Vision North Texas accomplishments and the opportunities for involvement is found at [visionnorthtexas.org](http://visionnorthtexas.org).